



Senate

General Assembly

January Session, 2017

File No. 141

Senate Bill No. 126

Senate, March 22, 2017

The Committee on Public Health reported through SEN. GERRATANA of the 6th Dist. and SEN. SOMERS of the 18th Dist., Chairpersons of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2017*) (a) As used in this
2 section, "community health worker" means a public health outreach
3 professional with an in-depth understanding of the experience,
4 language, culture and socioeconomic needs of the community who (1)
5 serves as a liaison between individuals within the community and
6 health care and social services providers to facilitate access to such
7 services and health-related resources, improve the quality and cultural
8 competence of the delivery of such services and address social
9 determinants of health with a goal toward reducing racial, ethnic,
10 gender and socioeconomic health disparities, and (2) increases health
11 knowledge and self-sufficiency through a range of services including
12 outreach, engagement, education, coaching, informal counseling, social
13 support, advocacy, care coordination, research and basic screenings
14 and assessments.

15 (b) The Commissioner of Public Health, in consultation with the
16 Commissioners of Social Services, Developmental Services and Mental
17 Health and Addiction Services shall examine the roles and
18 responsibilities of community health workers in this state. Not later
19 than October 1, 2018, the Commissioner of Public Health shall report in
20 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes
21 on the results of such examination to the joint standing committees of
22 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public
23 health and human services.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	<i>October 1, 2017</i>	New section
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PH *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 18 \$	FY 19 \$
Public Health, Dept.	GF - Cost	26,000	None

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill, which requires the Department of Public Health (DPH) to examine and report on the roles and responsibilities of community health workers in Connecticut, results in a one-time cost of \$26,000.¹ It is anticipated that DPH will contract with a research institution/consultants to complete this work.

The Out Years

There is no cost to the state and municipalities in the out years as the examination and report must be completed by October 1, 2018.

¹Funding of \$26,000 was provided in DPH's FY 17 Revised Budget to study the effectiveness of providing community-based health care services in the state, as required by Section 359 of PA15-5 JSS. It was then included in FY 17 holdbacks attributed to DPH. Funding for this purpose is removed in the Governor's FY 18 and FY 19 Budget as part of the annualization of FY 17 DPH holdbacks.

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 126*****AN ACT CONCERNING COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS.*****SUMMARY**

This bill establishes a statutory definition for a “community health worker” and based on that definition, requires the Department of Public Health (DPH) commissioner, in consultation with the developmental services, mental health and addiction, and social services commissioners, to examine the roles and responsibilities of community health workers in Connecticut. The DPH commissioner must report on the examination results to the Human Services and Public Health Committees by October 1, 2018.

Under the bill, a “community health worker” is a public health outreach professional with an in-depth understanding of a community’s experience, language, culture, and socioeconomic needs who performs a specific task. Specifically, this person:

1. serves as a liaison between community members and health care and social services providers to (a) facilitate access to these services and related resources, (b) improve the quality and cultural competence of the delivery of these services, and (c) address social determinants of health with a goal of reducing racial, ethnic, gender, and socioeconomic health disparities and
2. increases health knowledge and self-sufficiency through a range of services, including outreach, engagement, education, coaching, informal counseling, social support, advocacy, care coordination, research, and basic screenings and assessments.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2017

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 17 Nay 9 (03/06/2017)